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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 16 | Humidity 61% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 60,840 | Nifty 18,105 | Gold 54,962 | Silver 69,171 | Dollar 82.76 | Euro 88.30 | GBP 99.64

Eliminating middlemen, how residential communities are supporting farmers, buying pre-ordered farm produce

FRESHEST HARVEST

In 6 years, 100 farmers benefited from 3,000 community members

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Virtual groups of community clusters functioning since 2016 in and around Horamavu in Bengaluru East are supporting farmers utilising social media for mutual benefit.

Co-located clusters of residential communities are supporting several farmers from different states including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The specialty of this method is elimination of middlemen between the farmers and consumers. Farmers, based on pre-orders, bring their harvest directly to consumers at these clusters. The other advantage of this method is that community members collect the pre-ordered harvest directly from farmers paying full amount to them.

Prabhath Vijayan, a resident of Horamavu, who played a key role in launching the initiative said that he used to come across news of farmers in distress across the country. "Around 10% of the end-consumer price is going to average farmers for their perishable harvest, who don't have direct access to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"I have been trying to bridge farmer-to-consumer gap through a system facilitated by volunteers
— Prabhath Vijayan

BMTC live tracking app 'in 3-4 days'

With Nimmbus, share trip details via SMS; SOS button for women's safety

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In 2023, Bengalureans will be able to track live status of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses with their smartphones at any given time. The long-awaited official mobile application will be released for both Android and iOS phones in the coming week.

On Thursday, BMTC briefly released the app on Google Playstore for a mandated trial run.

"We did not release it to the public, but just for the trial basis that is mandated by Google. Currently, around 3,000 buses are available for live tracking on the application, but we are adding more buses to it and will release it in three or four days approximately," AV Surya Sen, BMTC director (IT), told Bangalore Mirror.

With a few more additions, the app will be ready for public use and is set to be released on all platforms for downloading.

"There are some depots that are yet to be added for live tracking. In case we release it without these updates, people living in these areas will complain that the application is of no use to them. We want it to be complete and add the status of as many buses as possible before launching it," the official added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 World of knowledge

If you are a book lover, this is for you. Dhanavantri Arogyashrama Trust is all set to launch 'Biodiversity in microhabitats- Plants, Predators and Prey of Arogyashram'. The book documents the natural diversity of medical plants, birds and insects. The event will also have panel discussion on perspectives in nurturing biodiversity. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, 4th Main Road, Stage 2, Domlur**
When: Monday, January 2; 6:15 pm to 8:16 pm

02 Family entertainment

The popular circus is back in the city. Rambo Circus with new acts and entertainment ideas is bringing award winning artists to perform. If you are one of those who have been eagerly waiting to visit the circus then your time has come. Watch acts like ladder balance, aerial acts, clowns, German wheel and more.
Where: St. John's Auditorium
When: Saturday, December 31 to January 1

03 Grab your seats

Don't miss a chance to visit the play that aims to explore the aspects of human feelings. By 2 Coffee brings performances that would stage the conflicting feelings between a mother and her son. The meaning of life perceived by both of them, the generational gap and more.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: Wednesday, January 4; 7:30 pm

Sport stars shine bright

Two sportsmen, one a 12-year-old do Bengaluru proud by winning accolades in bike racing and bodybuilding; duo has participated in international competitions

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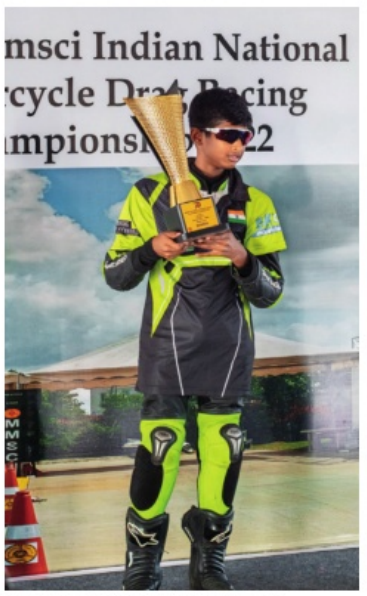

Shodan Rai, a bodybuilder, won gold at the INBA World Cup this year and Shreyas Hareesh, became the fastest bike racer in the Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2022

A bodybuilder as well as a bike racer made Bengaluru proud by winning gold medals for their respective sports. Both the sports stars have prepared their best to make the best out of their skills.

Shreyas Hareesh, a 12-year-old bike racer recently became the fastest bike racer in the Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2022. He set a 12.6 second quarter mile run and the bike he was using was Rx135 built by team Rockers Racing. Shreyas officially started participating in bike races in the year 2021. Since then, he has participated in a lot of championships. He is India's first miniGP Champion and he represented India at the World Championship in the month of November 2022. He was also one among the top 10 in the qualifying race 2 where he finished a lap in 45 seconds, just one second behind the championship winner.

He is also India's youngest racer to win a group D race in the MRF MMSC Indian National Championships at the age of 12 as well as India's youngest racer to win a race in the TVS Apache Rookies Cup when he was just 11 years old.

According to Hareesh Parandhaman, Shreyas's father, his son started riding motorcycles when he was 7 years old. "Initially we thought it was just for fun but later he expressed that he wanted to participate in competitive racing. As parents we had no idea about this sport, but we had to understand it," he said.

"It has been quite a journey and his aim is to always become better. Now he has a room that is full of trophies," he added.

Hareesh is looking forward to training Shreyas in Spain. His son has already shortlisted two Championships – Ohvale MiniGP World Championship and Finetwork Jr GP World Championships, both of which will start around May and finish by November.

On other hand, Shodan Rai, a bodybuilder, recently won gold at the INBA World Cup this year. The competition was held in Los Angeles, USA and it was a world anti-doping agency (WADA) tested natural bodybuilding contest. There were 250 athletes who took part among all categories.

He also participated in INBA Natural Olympia which was held this year in Las Vegas, USA and was placed 7th in his category.

"Due to covid, I did not compete for almost two years, and I started again in 2022. I made up my mind to compete in the contest that was scheduled for November," said Shodan. He was also the winner of the title of Mr Bangalore in 2001 and Mr Karnataka in category/class. He received the 8th position at Mr World which was held in Athens, Greece in the year 2008.

Decline in cyclones: A new worry

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While there has been an increase in cyclonic events for the past few years, this year, there has been a decrease in cyclones. According to India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Climate Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas of India, there has been a significant reduction in the annual frequency of tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean (NIO) basin since the middle of the 20th century (1951–2018).

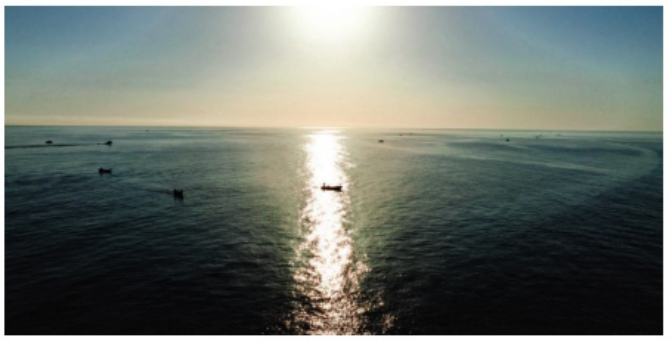
In contrast, the frequency of very severe cyclonic storms (VSCSs) during the post-monsoon season has increased significantly (+1 event per decade) during the last two decades (2000–2018).

However, a clear signal of anthropogenic warming on these trends has not yet emerged. Climate models project a rise in the intensity of tropical cyclones in the NIO basin during the twenty-first century.

According to Mahesh Palawat, VP, Meteorology and Climate Change at Skymet, this year India has not seen many cyclones over the Bay of Bengal. Only two cyclones were there in the post monsoon season – one was Sitrang and another was Mandous.

"Since the last four to five years, we have seen that the overall intensity and frequency has increased over both the Bay of Bengal as well as over the Arabian Sea. It can be attributed to climate change and global warming. Sea surface temperatures are warming up over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea," he said.

"Earlier, the ratio was around seven to three, seven over the Bay of Bengal and three cyclones over the Arabian Sea. Now the Arabian Sea is also warming up leading to increase in cyclogenesis as well as frequency and intensity. Therefore, we can say that now the sea surface temperatures are warming up leading to more cyclogenesis and more intensity," he added.



Since the last four to five years, overall intensity and frequency has increased over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea

In a recent reply in Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh said that the summer monsoon precipitation (June to September) over India has declined by around 6 per- cent from 1951 to 2015, with notable decreases over the Indo-Gangetic Plains and the Western Ghats.

"There is an emerging consensus, based on multiple datasets and climate model simulations, that the radiative effects of anthropogenic aerosol forcing over the Northern Hemisphere have considerably offset the expected precipitation increase from global warming and contributed to the observed decline in summer monsoon precipitation," he said. **— with inputs from Soumya Singh**

New Year Eve: High prices, low spirits

While demand for partying is high, so are cover charges – some as high as Rs 10,000

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After two years of lockdowns and night curfews, youngsters in the city are full of excitement this year for the new year eve celebrations.

However, pubs and nightclubs charging exorbitant cover charges for new years' eve parties have dampened the spirit in the city.

Cover charges refer to the amount of money one needs to pay in addition to the food and drink charges at a restaurant, pub, or nightclub. Youngsters in Bengaluru complained that some pubs are asking for cover charges as high as Rs 8,000-10,000.

Rakshita Kumar, 22, a resident of JP Nagar, said, "I was looking for places to go to with my friends on new years' eve and saw that a club in St Marks road was charging Rs 9,000 just as the cover charge. This is a ridiculous way of making money. These businesses know that the excitement is high this year so people will be willing to pay more to enjoy, but this is too steep, especially for the youngsters and students who are a major part of the crowd."

"I am shocked that people are still choosing to pay so much for these parties. It does not make any sense to pay Rs 10,000 as entry fees to just stay there for a few hours –Akash, resident of Bengaluru

Many pubs in the city are also organising new years' eve parties on December 31, but youngsters say that the parties are overpriced and overcrowded.

"The same thing happened on Christmas eve, and new years' eve will be even worse. There is a culture of going clubbing on new years' eve, and it has grown over the past years. The pubs are using that for their profit.

Many luxury places around the city are charging Rs 5,000-6,000 per person for their parties claiming that there will be unlimited food and drinks. They do not have so much variety and it is also very crowded," said Akash, 24.

"I am shocked that people are still choosing to pay so much for these parties. It does not make any sense to pay Rs 10,000 as entry fees to just stay there for a few hours. It would be much better to do a house party instead," he added.

The businesses say that since the crowd is very high on NYE, cover charges are necessary to filter the crowd.

"Pubs take cover charges because otherwise people come and enjoy without ordering any food and drinks and spending anything, especially on NYE. It can obviously be a little heavy on the customer's pocket, but it allows us to filter some of the crowd. With that, only the people who are willing to spend will enter the premises," said Miten Shah, owner of Studs Bar and Grills, JP Nagar.

"However, we also do not promote charging so much as Rs.

10,000 for cover charge. We are charging a basic fee of Rs. 1,000-1,500, which is reasonable for the people," Miten added.

New CII Young Indians office bearers, 2023

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Young Indians (Yi) Bengaluru Chapter appointed Bhavin Dinesh Pandya as Chapter Chair and Mohammed Zahrin Bin Aziz as Chapter Co-Chair for the year 2023.

Pandya is the vice president for strategy implementation at Swiss Re Global Business Solutions Private Limited, while Aziz is the director of NKP Empire Ventures Private Limited.

The CII Yi Bengaluru Chapter was founded in 2002 and has been actively contributing to the city in many areas.

Second highest crimes by foreigners in state

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A drug factory run by a foreigner in the city seems to be just the tip of the iceberg as the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data reveals some startling revelations.

According to the data, Karnataka has the highest number of crimes committed by foreigners in south India (second highest in the country after West Bengal). The data shows that around 1,754 crimes were committed in 2020 by foreigners. In fact, it was down from 2,259 in 2019. This is mainly because many weeks of 2020 were a part of the nation-wide lockdown where there was a strict ban on movement of people.

The data shows that West Bengal had the highest (635) crimes committed by foreigners, followed by Karnataka (344). A majority of this has been in Bengaluru. A further classification of the crimes by foreigners shows that murder, attempt to murder, rape, theft, cheating and forgery cases were among the crimes recorded. Surprisingly, there are 72 cases related to narcotics.

On the other hand, the crimes against foreigners have also seen a decrease in the state. This is majorly due to a drastic decrease in foreign arrivals due to various travel restrictions imposed in the country as well as travel plans being paralysed due to outbreak of the pandemic. In 2018, there were 28 cases of crimes against foreigners which went up to 46 in 2019 and then fell to 19 in 2020.

Police sources said that there have been a number of instances where a few foreigners have been misbehaving in Bengaluru and indulging in illegal activities.

Police say that although the NCRB data refers to 2020, these kinds of incidents were also on the rise even in 2021- a recent one being the police unearthing a 'narcotics factory' in Bengaluru. They seized4 kilograms of MDMA synthetic drugs worth Rs 2 crore.

Even the police were shocked to find a well-established network operating in the city. The banned MDMA crystals were placed inside shoes and sold in the city and other parts of the country. The accused also sent these synthetic drugs to New Zealand and other countries from Bengaluru via courier.

This is said to be the first such case in the city. The accused, who was a Nigerian national, had rented out a house in Chamundi Layout in Electronics City Phase 1 area for the manufacture of MDMA crystals.

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RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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A year to introspect

Through the year, in a series of stories, BM has been highlighting the monumental hold of corruption at Bengaluru's urban civic administration; moreover, the city has been without a council for over two years.

The complete absence of a grievance redressal mechanism for Bengalureans doesn't seemingly worry the authorities. If we are to read the level of impunity of corrupt officials in the metropolis as a microcosm, or an indication of what's eating the nation from the insides, the year ahead has to be a period of profound introspection for the electorate.

The new year of 2023 shall herald that critical make or break few months to gauge the fault lines in our choice of elected representatives as Bengaluru goes to choose a brand new city council and Karnataka a state government, setting stage for the decisive Lok Sabha poll of 2024.

The rate at which standards in public life of politicians are being hollowed out shamelessly in plain public view, with the silent nod and encouragement of powers that be, is utterly deplorable: spiking incidence of corruption in urban infra delivery is just the proverbial tip.

That political discourse is a sounding board for stakeholders with the taxpayer at the heart of lawmaking, policy, execution and delivery is just ain't the reality anymore. The aforesaid introspection must acknowledge the harsh body blow dealt to the Bengaluru taxpayer/voter before attempting to redraw governance through vote, be it at the city council or higher up in the world's largest and most populous democracy.

As new challenges manifest each day spelling an array of difficulties for even the robust of global economies, ideally lawmakers here must tread lightly more than ever, and must shun short term gains let alone the temptation of corruption. Far from it, you have a city in the stranglehold of massively corrupt elements. The future is bleak for Bengaluru in the backdrop of allegations such as '40% commission' and so forth.

The social cost of shoddy urban governance, where the simplest of infra delivery is muddled in layers of malpractice, is manifold. Adaptation to nebulous challenges of the day for instance: burgeoning urban population is not self regulating for the good of public commons or accessibility of public services. Nor is the civic administration adopting measures to ease life as the city bursts at the seams with the unprecedented inflow of individuals arriving by the day in search of better prospects. The huge demand for affordable housing and multitude of vehicles jamming the roads where asphalt chips off like layer cake are realities of Bengaluru in 2023.

When cushioning the life of city dwellers against dynamic urban challenges is the need of the hour, we have a dispensation busy gobbling up taxpayers' money greedily in absolute disregard for the citizenry like never seen before. This makes India and Indian cities repulsive for the global entrepreneur in another year of economic slump. Amidst astronomic environmental pressure on urban design driven by the climate emergency, how to adapt/tweak existing infra should be one of the key policy priorities of any urban conglomeration.

Instead, the distraction of cultural nitpicking is tearing the social fabric raised through centuries of communities living together in harmony. Our cities are spaces to showcase the cultural diversity from across the country where much of non-institutional learning and society building take place. Most importantly, an eclectic cultural mix is critical for this young urban setting at the moment.

Cultural barter has been one of the defining aspects that has gone into the making of many great cities. Despite isolated attempts that were dealt with, cultural homogenisation never played a part in the making of any great city, testifies history.

If cultural disruption at a time of mounting crises across the socio-political milieu is used for political opportunism, societal collapse is imminent sooner. Certainly there is inertia in a country as big as India at the cusp of becoming the world's most populous nation whilst thoughtless measures are slapped on the impoverished majority.

Curious thing is suo moto institutional or media cognisance of this sort of diabolic social/political criminality has become increasingly rare when it is most needed — this is a constitutional guarantee when all mechanisms of grievance redressal are seemingly shutting doors to the poor and vulnerable. Press briefings too — almost a thing of the past now, except from opposition parties — are a venue for acknowledging the grievances of the citizenry.

These are only a few in a barrage of concerns as we leave tumultuous 2022 behind into an equally uncertain year hoping to decipher in earnest what happened to this great nation in the past decade, how and why. Digital distraction is surely an obstacle in the way of clarity and continuity of thought and should be shown its place in public discourse, nonetheless.

City hospitals hesitant about nasal vaccine

As existing vaccine vials expire, hospitals not sure about new player

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Disinfectant being sprayed in front of Vidhana Soudha on Friday

With the recent surge in the number of covid-19 cases in many countries, the union health ministry approved the use of Bharat Biotechs covid nasal vaccine which the Centre said private hospitals are allowed to procure the vaccines. However, many hospitals in the city are not looking forward to buy the nasal vaccines, going by fact that previous vaccines such as Covishield and Covaxin are expiring with no takers.

Dr Ravindra R, Medical Director, Suguna Hospital, said, "We still don't know yet who are supplying the nasal vaccines. And we have no plans to procure it as we have already seen how other vaccines are reaching expiry date and the stock had to be thrown. Recently also we got 200 doses of Covaxin and people are not even coming to take it. Earlier Covaxin was available only with private hospital, but after a while, government hospitals started giving Covaxin for free and so many preferred to go to government centres to get it. This way, many vaccines were waste and we lost quite a lot of money. Many of the small private hospitals are not interested in procuring these vaccines. Even people are hesitant and are not sure about its efficacy."

Another private hospital in Jaynagar said, "We have still not got anybody coming and asking us yet about the nasal spray vaccines. In such a scenario we are not thinking of getting nasal spray vaccines."

Dr. Satyanarayana Mysore, HOD and consultant Pulmonology, Sleep Physician, Manipal Hospital, said, "Manipal Hospitals is awaiting the nasal vaccine which will be administered as a booster dose. The vaccines are yet to be delivered. The demand for booster doses was non-existent a month ago, but with the situation in China, the demand is slowly going up".

Talking about the advantage of nasal vaccines, Dr Mysore said, the nasal vaccine has production of IgA and IgG antibodies. "The results of phase 3 has not been shared to the academic world, but there is regulatory nod which is been looked at by the vaccine committee. No needle will be a distinctive advantage and administration can be done by a healthcare worker and than by a nurse who is trained to give injection. One of the most awaited thing is if nasal vaccine will develop a sterilising dose, that is it can inactivate the virus at the portal of entry and no infections hold thereafter..."

A doctor at Aster CMI Hospital said that people need to be sensitised about its uses, dos, and don'ts. "Though we have not come across anyone asking for it, if demand increases, we may go for it in the near future. People are just awakening to the fact that the cases are on the rise in other countries. We are getting enquiries about the vaccines, but not in high numbers. We have approximately 40–50 people coming to us for vaccinations."

Farmer-to-consumer bridge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the consumer. I have been trying to bridge this farmer-to-consumer gap through a system facilitated by volunteers that can be scaled or replicated anywhere by anyone. As a trial, we have been doing this in Horamavu and nearby areas since 2016 which is getting good support," said Vijayan.

After placing orders, community members get the fresh harvest, at a relatively lower price; this also enables the consumers to have the feel of ethical buying by supporting farmers which is an additional bonus. Vijayan said that a good amount of effort was needed to create awareness among the multiple community groups and to onboard new farmers.

"I treat this effort as giving back to society. My studies until engineering were on merit seats which are funded by public money. I was always grateful for this; the effort I make along with other friends in different communities is nothing compared to this funding received for studies," he said.

This method is beneficial for those residing in Bengaluru and own farms on the outskirts or nearby towns/cities like Devanahalli, Mandya or Kolar. If people become members of the WhatsApp group created by Vijayan, it would be easy for them to know the demand for fruits, vegetables and other items such as jaggery, toor dal, plantain leaves and so on.

"My husband and I own a farm near Bagepalli. It is viable for us to bring a variety of fruits to Bengaluru while returning home from our farm. Generally, we visit our farm on weekends. We will inform the community members about the fruits harvested at our farm and supply to them as per their requirement," said Dr Ramani Marakani.

Likewise, Nandisha Mallegowda, a zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) exponent from Mandya, said that he managed to sell fruits, vegetables, jaggery and other items worth around Rs 4 lakh in the last four years to the community members. "I supply farm produce based on the demand for fruits, vegetables and other items. We use no pesticides at our farm," said Mallegowda.

Community members are aware they cannot expect farmers to cater all of their needs. They place orders with farmers according to the availability of harvested fruits and vegetables. "I am very happy and satisfied with the fruits and vegetables supplied by farmers," said Kavitha Pozhathu.

In the last six years, around 100 farmers have benefited and over 3,000 community members are availing fruits, vegetables and other items.

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Bronze statue of KC Reddy installed at last!

After much demand, delay, first state CM's bronze statue gets installed at Vidhana Soudha

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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The much-delayed and awaited Tbronze statue of first Chief Minister of Mysore State Kyasamballi Chengaluraya Reddy aka KC Reddy has been installed at Vidhana Soudha at least. The statue is expected to be unveiled by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

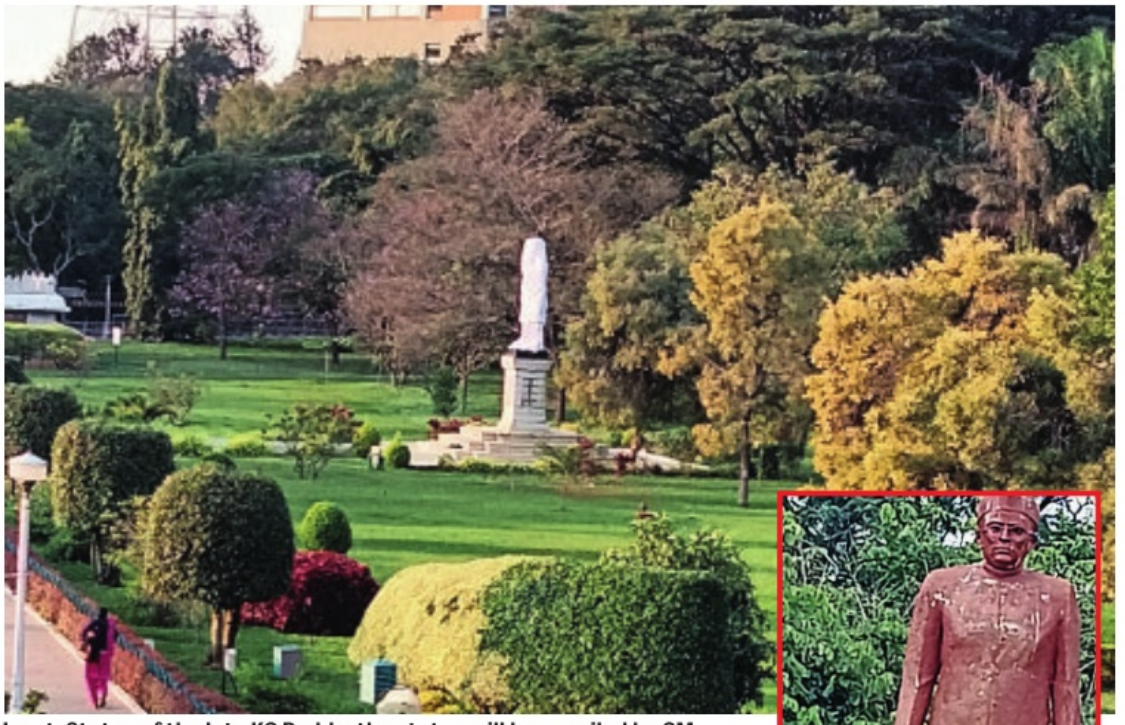
KC Reddy's family members and well-wishers have been demanding the state government to install the statue for more than a decade. Reddy's grand-daughter Vasantha Kavitha used to meet important leaders appealing for the installation of his statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises. Siddaramaiah, the Chief Minister of that time, unveiled a statue made of plastic composite ahead of the 2018 State assembly elections.

It may be recalled that KC Reddy's family members and well-wishers staged a protest during the assembly session in Belagavi held in November 2017 demanding the installation of a bronze statue. The state government settled for a fibre one on the pretext of financial and time constraints.

"The bronze statue has been installed on the pedestal. It was made at an estimated cost of Rs 60 lakh. Unveiling of KC Reddy's bronze statue will depend on the availability of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai," said PWD assistant executive engineer Arun.

Kavitha said that her family members have been asking for a bronze statue since 2013 and the Congress government had allocated Rs 2 crore for the same, but a fibre statue was installed just before the state assembly elections in 2018.

"We have again followed up on the bronze statue issue from 2019 and demanded the next government to complete installation. The present government took five years to install the bronze statue of my grand-father. The state government took 10 years to meet one of our three demands," said Kavitha.



Inset: Statue of the late KC Reddy; the statue will be unveiled by CM Basavaraj Bommai when he finds a chance, according to reports

> **"We are hoping the Chief Minister will unveil the statue on February 28, his death anniversary, or between January 1 and 26**
> – Vasantha Kavitha, grand daughter of KC Reddy

Feeling happy over the installation at Vidhana Soudha, she said the founder who laid the foundation stone of Vidhana Soudha got a proper place and proper statute. "We are hoping the Chief Minister will unveil the statue on February 28, which is the death anniversary of KC Reddy, or between January 1 or 26. We want the state government to meet our two demands – install a full size portrait in Vidhana Soudha Assembly Hall, and name one of the Karnataka Corporation Boards after KC Reddy," she said. Bharathi Nagar Residents' Welfare Forum president NS Ravi, who played a key role in convincing the BBMP authorities for allocating funds for the upkeep of former President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy's memorial near Kalpalli Electric Crematorium, demanded the Chief Minister allocate time for unveiling KC Reddy's bronze statue.

Bhakthavatsala Reddy, a well-wisher of late KC Reddy, appreciated the state government for installing the bronze statue. "I want the state government to name either Narasapura Industrial Area or Kolar District after KC Reddy," he added.

Madhavi, a social activist from Kolar, said the state government should take measures to create awareness among school children about KC Reddy.

"Not many school-going children are aware of the first chief minister of the state. It will be good if the education department includes a chapter on KC Reddy at primary or high schools," Madhavi said.

Track your BMTC bus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The launch of both iOS and Android versions of the 'Nimmbus' app was earlier slated for the second half of December. The app has several features like SOS to specially aid women passengers. Passengers will also be able to share their ride details with their contacts via SMS.

The absence of a live-tracking facility for the BMTC buses has been one of the major complaints raised by the commuters so far. However, the launch of this application is expected to invite more regular commuters.

"I regularly take the bus to my college as it is cheaper and somewhat convenient. One of the biggest setbacks, however, especially while taking routes I am not familiar with, is that there is no way to know the status of the buses and their estimated time of arrival (ETA). Even on the known routes, sometimes I have to wait for more than 40 minutes," said Navnit Gupta, a regular bus user.

"Bus rides would become more convenient with the app, especially for students and office goers who are in a hurry. Currently, I use the Moovit app to identify bus routes and numbers, but it does not give correct ETA; only the approximate timing of the buses that are often incorrect.

I think the BMTC app is much needed, especially with the increasing popularity of BMTC buses among youngsters and working professionals," said Amit K, another commuter.

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E- Open Tender Notice No.:-S/RWP/E/ 42/2022-23, Dated : 29.12.2022

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **SN.-1. Tender No.**: 01221025, **Short Description of item** : Fused Silica Powder, **Quantity** : 44373.00 Kg., **Date of Tender Closing/Opening : 02.01.2023 at 14:00 Hrs. 1.** Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.**The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.

PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2022-23/98

whatsapp MIRROR
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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Parking menace

Thambuchetty Road

People are parking on both sides of the road and making it difficult for traffic to move. This is causing jams on Thambuchetty Road.

Clear the pole

Belathur

An old electric pole has been lying on the platform beside Anjaneyaswamy temple in Belathur main road, Kadugodi for a long time.

Illegal?

JB Nagar

The road connecting JB Nagar and Manipal, Old Airport Road is being used by a private person for his work.

Tips to check the authenticity of your coloured gemstones

Who doesn't love a beautiful coloured gemstone? Rings, neckpieces, earrings... women love to possess beautiful gemstones in their jewellery box. But the one thing that has to be ensured is whether the stone is genuine or not. Gemstones are rare and expensive – and something one can't afford to be wrong about. But how do you determine whether a coloured gemstone is authentic or not? Elena Basaglia, gemmologist at Gemfields, helps answer that question.

What to look for when buying coloured gemstones

"What you are looking for is an evenness of colour with good saturation," Basaglia informs. She further suggests you tilt the stone in all directions, as sometimes the colour can look vacant along some angles. Also, if possible, view the stone in daylight so you aren't unpleasantly surprised when you take the stone away from the shop light.

"The cut of the stone is also important, as this will also make the gemstone come alive," shares Basaglia, "Coloured gemstones often have inclusions (natural features) within the stone and these are part of its DNA. Basically, rarity means value: the clearer the stone along with good colour, the rarer the stone will be. Don't worry about the inclusions, though, as these are what make your emerald unique, so that you will never get two stones looking the same."

If it is a significant gemstone you are purchasing, then "there must be transparency on treatments of any kind, so it must be accompanied by a certificate from a recognised, independent gemological laboratory."

Know the brand

When looking for the perfect piece of jewellery with the perfect coloured (or otherwise) gemstone, the consumer should ensure that the brand they choose is the right one – that has responsible sourcing and transparency, as these are incredibly important these days. You should know where their products and materials have come from. Gemfields is one brand that does just that.

"Responsible sourcing for Gemfields means operating in a way that contributes positively to national economies, takes a leading role in modernising the coloured gemstone sector, and building lasting, sustainable livelihoods for the communities around our mines," Basaglia says. "We believe that coloured gemstones should be mined and marketed by championing three key values -- legitimacy, transparency, and integrity."

Legitimacy: "We go over and above accepted practices operating in a way that not only meets international and national laws, but that also challenges the sector by setting new benchmarks around sustainability," she tells.

> **"We believe that coloured gemstones should be mined and marketed by championing three key values – legitimacy, transparency, and integrity**

Transparency: She says, "To lead, we must be transparent. As well as leading with our own standards and initiatives through our downstream supply chain, we are working with partners to standardise strong, transparent practices across the industry.

Integrity: "We are committed to embedding tangible operational actions starting right from the mines, to support the sales and marketing of our product," she shares, "Our proprietary grading system provides our partners with trusted evaluation and declaration of treatment." **– Femina**

Diamonds are forever

Everybody loves diamonds. But, the big question is how to choose the right diamond? Well, the answer lies in consulting the right expert. Meet **Mr Abhijith V Shet, a renowned expert on diamonds and gems** in Namma Bengaluru. Being a renowned gemologist from GIA and accredited jewellery professional, Mr Abhijith has a vast experience of working in diamond manufacturing companies. After gaining ample knowledge about diamonds, Mr Abhijith's main purpose is to educate people about the affordability and value of diamonds. Many are under the misconception that only the wealthy can buy diamonds, which is not true. Hence, Mr Abhijith V Shet explains A to Z of diamonds and how diamonds are the best bet for investing.

Mr Abhijith V Shet has carved a name for himself for selling the best and affordable diamonds in the City. He is the Managing partner of M/S N Laxminarayan Shet Jewellers (Jewellers & Diamond Merchants located at No 53, Opposite Samskruthi Hall, 9th Main road, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 41), Bengaluru branch. In fact, his family has been in the diamond business since 1939. For the last 83 years, this business house has thousands of trusted customers.

This prestigious business house was founded by visionary businessman and Mr Abhijith's grandfather Mr N Laxminarayan Shet. The Mangaluru branch is now managed by Mr Abhijith's brother Mr Anirudh V Shet.

USP OF M/S N LAXMINARAYAN SHET JEWELLERS

If you need value for money, then M/s N Laxminarayan Shet Jewellers is your right destination. "We use only triple excellent cut stones, VVS and e-colour grade diamonds in all our products. Quality is always guaranteed as this is our first priority. Well, you need not worry about the pricing as we focus on affordability without compromising on quality. We also offer a buy back guarantee scheme where you can see the difference yourself." The diamonds you choose should only bring you joy and love. Hence, Mr Abhijith V Shet answers all your queries related to diamonds and why people should buy diamonds.

What is a Diamond & Why are Diamonds so expensive?

Well, Diamonds are the beautiful, shiny and extensively hard minerals found in nature. Diamonds are known for their lustre and shining qualities. You will be surprised to know that it takes more than 200 years for the formation of a single diamond.

Once these diamonds are mined, it takes several man hours to create the final product. Diamonds are expensive because of high demand and scarce availability of quality diamonds.

'We believe in giving only the best diamonds to our clients & never compromise on quality'

A diamond with EF-VVS quality as mentioned in the certificate may be priced differently in different shops due to the following reasons. The cut of the stones may not be exactly triple excellent. Hence, while buying diamonds, always make sure to go for triple x cut diamonds even though they are a bit expensive. A very good cut diamond may be cheaper. A top shade of FG may be used and thus there may be a price difference. I would suggest going for triple x cut diamonds. In case of a price criterion, one can compromise on colour and clarity instead. It is always better to go for ideal cut diamonds with 56/57 table and a total depth of 62 even though they are little expensive as such diamonds are completely worth buying.

Is investing in diamonds safer like gold investment?

Investments in Diamonds are completely safe like gold investments. In fact, there are 100 pc buy back diamonds (like gold). As the prices increase annually, investing in diamonds today can fetch you better returns in years to come. In fact, these days, many are preferring to buy diamonds for investment purposes as it is not only fetching them higher returns in longer run but also has attractive schemes like 100 pc buy back. Let's compare gold and diamond investment with an example. For example, if you buy a diamond ring worth Rs 50,000 today and the prices may reach Rs 65,000 in a few years. If you wish to sell the diamond ring then, you will be getting Rs 65,000. This means, the buyer has got a margin of Rs 15,000 on his previous investment besides wearing the ring for all these years as well.

Well, last but not least. Please, don't go by the offers and low prices being offered elsewhere as it is a clear ploy to cheat customers by selling inferior quality diamonds. Always listen to an expert and visit a certified shop where you get the best quality for the best price. All I can tell you is price comes from the quality. After all investing in the best quality diamond will be your best asset for not just today but for generations to come. **— PRAKASH VL**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

'TIL THE END

A flock of green bee-eaters huddling for warmth on a cold winter morning in Whitefield

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Ishit Trivedi**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Safer sidewalks: A dream for Bengalureans

Most of the footpaths at Railway Parallel Road are encroached by vendors or have become parking slots. Residents feel unsafe as they are forced to walk on roads

Pedestrians struggle to cross Tumakuru road at Railway Parallel Road junction, they urge BBMP to make footpaths cable free

We always wonder why pedestrians are given a raw deal in Bengaluru. While there are many flyovers built for motorists, there are not many proper footpaths in the city where pedestrians can walk. Look at the example of the Railway Parallel Road that connects Srirampuram near the Metro shop. Forget proper footpaths, the pedestrians have to face the danger of walking next to dangling cables as well.

"We use the Railway Parallel Road to reach the hospital, retail stories and Tumakuru main road. Once upon a time, the road was quite quaint. However, we are seeing an increase in traffic in recent times. The pedestrians are forced to walk on the road as the footpaths are usually encroached," said Shiva Murthy, a resident of Milk Colony.

"One portion of the footpath is used for illegal parking and by vendors. There is no continuous footpath and it is really tough to walk. We are always at risk while walking on the road as there is a constant fear of being hit by the vehicles," he added. According to Narayanappa R, a resident of Gayatri Nagar, it is really sad to see so many dangling cables along the footpath.

"There is always a risk of falling down if one steps on these cables. For a long time, the residents have been complaining to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to remove the cables. Earlier they had announced to remove all the cables and even a deadline was set. However, nothing much has been achieved," he said. "We keep hearing from the BBMP officials that they have been taking up drives in Mahadevapura zone but we wonder why our area is neglected in this matter. As there are many senior citizens, women and children using the footpaths, I request the BBMP to quickly act on the matter," he added.

Shivappa R, another resident, told Bangalore Mirror that currently it is very difficult to cross the Tumakuru road due to heavy traffic and residents need to take a detour to cross it.

"We request the BBMP to construct a skywalk to cross the Tumakuru road at the junction of Railway Parallel Road. There are a number of people who want to cross the road from the Metro shop towards the garment factory side," he said.

— Prakash VL

DID YOU KNOW?

CV Raman, one of the greatest Indian scientists, was a resident of Malleswaram. His residence is named Panchavati and is spread over 2.5 acres of land. His residence is located at 8th Main, 15th Cross, near MES College. It is said that he spent several decades of his life in this bungalow. The place was rumored to be haunted for several years. It was built by BJK Naik in 1905. IN 1942 CV Raman bought this place from one of Naik's descendants. The house is named Panchavati after the forest where Ram and Sita stayed after leaving for exile. CV Raman won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1930. The great scientist moved to Bengaluru in the 1930s after he received a position at Indian Institute of Science (IISC). At present, the property is maintained by Raman Research Institute Trust.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

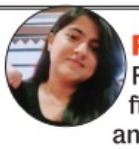
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

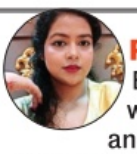
What is your vision for Bengaluru 2023?

Seema Vasudevan, BM Reader
Better facilities for specially abled and elders should be added, such as levelled bus-stops with wheelchair facility and lesser skywalks, as many in the ageing population are unable to climb due to joint issues. The potholes are to be filled.



Preeti Chauhan, BM Reader
For the wellness of people, more fitness centres should be opened in and around Bengaluru. More yoga, pilates studios and trainers for various mobility exercises should come up. A lot has picked up over the years, but we need better.

Raghav Garg, BM Reader
Road conditions need definite improvements. Also strict fines for over speeding and unnecessary honking should be introduced in the city. More green zones for pedestrians should be added, so that people can walk freely.



Pragati Bharati, BM Reader
Bengaluru should have more women based safety applications and taxis. Most roads need to be levelled up. They should have walkalators and vending machines with emergency energy bars and drinks like in Japan.

Udita Chandra, BM Reader
Bengaluru needs to work on its security for 2023 by introducing more buses like AC Vajra, taxi applications for rides inside the city and creating more awareness for men to stop stalking and eve teasing women.

Sanjay Daiv, BM Reader
I would like to see the rebirth of creativity in the city. The young generation should start to observe around instead of being on their phones all the time. The world's best ideas and stories come from observing around.

SPEAK TO US

Tell us what is your personal vision for 2023

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

Precision matters

Expert says robots could increase precision of surgeries to nearly 100 per cent

With over 300 successful robotic surgeries conducted since its inception in June 2022, AASRA Group Managing Director and founder Dr. Jagadish J Hiremath says that robotic surgeries are a boon for patients thanks to its precision perfect methods and no scope for error. As AASRA is geared up to conduct another 2,000 surgeries next year, Dr Hiremath discusses A-Z of robotic surgeries and how it has become a blessing for patients. Advanced Academy for Surgery, Robotics, and Arthroplasty (AASRA) is the first hospital in Karnataka to use MAKO Smart robotics and second to use CMR surgical robotic system in the state. Dr Hiremath talks to Melvin Mathew to elucidate more on this.

Is robot-assisted surgery the future of medicine?

"To achieve perfection in surgeries, the human skill required by the surgeon needs to be taken out of the equation. In conventional surgeries, standard deviation due to human error has a 14-20 per cent rate.

We want to drastically reduce the numbers, especially in major surgeries. Robot-assisted surgeries can increase the precision of surgeries to nearly 100 per cent.

Slowly, tech-assisted surgeries will be the future. The future will involve robots conducting surgeries with surgeons overlooking them."

How did you get into robotics?

"I have always been a technology-savvy doctor and have been associated with medical technology for a long time. Exposed to this side of the industry for quite some time, you know the new revolutions in the industry.

As a practitioner, I have always tried to work with R&D teams to bring out newer technologies in the medical field. We became aware of robotics in early 2010 and its impact in patient care.

When I came back to Bangalore in 2017, I noticed that robotics-assisted surgery was quite unaffordable and not covered by health insurance. Hence, we decided to revolutionise the space by providing robotics surgery at cost with conventional surgery."

aasra
Think surgery · Think aasra

Where do you borrow the technology from?

"We are importing the robotics system from a US-based company Mako Robotics.

We were the first to bring and use this in Karnataka but more than a million surgeries have been conducted through this technology. The Mako model used is the second generation one, and the first installation was in Hyderabad.

How is robotic-assisted surgery better than conventional surgery?

"A conventional surgery depends on the surgeon's experience and skill. None of the robot assisted surgeries are completely automatic. We first assess the patient and send for 3D reconstruction of the knee joint using CT scan.

After building the 3D model, it's fed into the software. Assisted by robot specialists, the surgery plan is prepared and fed into the robot. The bio-medical engineer assists the surgeon with determining the cut areas.

The sizing of the joints is pre-decided before the operation. Further, the machine guides the surgeon for the best course for the surgery and does not allow the surgeon to deviate from it.

The surgeon operating with four-robotic arms can visualise the minor incisions with high clarity. In case of deviations, the machine shuts down immediately.

The process can also help surgeons achieve near perfection by learning from surgeries."

How many different kinds of robots are available?

"There are different robots for different departments. We have a different robot for urology, GI, pancreatic, cancer, and lung surgeries, and another one for hip and knee replacement surgeries. We are getting a third one for neuro and spine surgeries. By the end of January, we hope to be a completely robotic surgery team. We are also planning to bring in Cath lab interventions and Renal Artery Denervation in severe hypertension etc.

What was the most complex surgery performed using this method?

"Recently, we performed a hip-replacement surgery on a polio patient. We also operated on a patient with dual cancer. We also performed a complex lobectomy surgery using Versius platform from CMR as there was no prior database for the operation. We also performed a couple of Whipple surgeries using a robotics-assisted surgery system."

Can the surgery time be reduced?

"While initially the robot-assisted surgery might consume more time, eventually once the surgeon gets used to the procedure, the surgery time can be reduced to 90 per cent of time consumed by conventional methods."

Why is there hesitation in adopting the technology into the field?

"While it leads to extremely successful results, the cost of the technology is very high. On an average, each unit costs Rs 20-30 crore. But this is the cost of early adoption of technology and is expected to drop gradually over the years."

Is the post-recovery time drastically reduced for patients?

"Normally, patients start walking right after surgery, and by day four, return to normalcy. Compared to conventional surgery, the post-operative period is reduced by a greater degree. Morbidity and fatigue in patients is reduced to nearly zero.

2022: The long & short of it

As another eventful year draws to an end, Bangalore Mirror thanks every reader for their continued support to us. We at Bangalore Mirror are consistently working to provide you coverage about matters closest to the city's heart. Like every past year, we have been successful in breaking many stories and readers remember how the issues get fixed once they are published in BM. For us, this year has been mostly about matters of urgency -- how to make the city more liveable, was always on our minds. We were the pedestrian and the common citizen; we were the environment-conscious human and the person who aspires to live in a city that is plural and welcoming. We pick some of our best stories and images of 2022 to wrap up the year. We hope to have our readers with us for the years to come so that we can continue to be the voice of every Bengalurean.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

BM reported about how while Mandur's landfill was finally being cleared out after years, garbage from there was being dumped instead at a spot behind the Hoskote Lake

BM was the first to report how the National Green Tribunal ordered the constitution of a joint committee to look into pollution caused by the SWM plant near Chikkanagamangala

We reported how A year ago, Bengaluru received Rs 496.5 crore for installing CCTV cameras in the city limits under the Safe City project, but no cameras had been installed

BM reported about the 43% increase in pedestrian deaths in 2022 a as compared to the previous year and how 228 pedestrians had lost their lives

BangaloreMirror
KEEP CALM
POTTER'S PLIGHT
Post pandemic, Bengaluru posting spike in admissions across de-addiction centres, especially of those struggling to give up alcohol
HIGHS & LOWS
'In a day we see 5 to 6 addiction cases'
More Room to Read

BM reported about a phenomenon in post-pandemic Bengaluru, of a spike in admissions across deaddiction centres as people took to various vices in the face of stress and isolation

We brought to you a city-based techie whose drawings on daily commute brought into the spotlight the need to reclaim right of way for cyclists and public spaces for ordinary citizen

BM reported about how the Electronic City flyover was turning out to be a dangerous spot for two-wheeler riders and wondered what could be done for riders' safety

BM reported about mushrooming e-commerce warehouses or 'dark stores' where delivery partners work without parking or toilets that are trampling upon civic infra

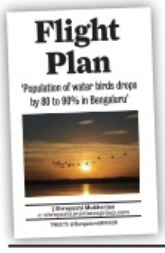
BM shone a light on the affairs of the BBMP, where the Palike made payment of Rs 49 lakh to contractor for food for an event that was never served in the first place

BM showed how 62 students at a government school, mostly kids of daily wagers were suffering as the school building was in a pathetic state with leaking roofs, crumbling paint

BM spoke about leakage of contaminants from landfills that left just 17% of groundwater samples from 12 sites within acceptable limits

BM reported how 95% of forest watcher positions in Bengaluru circle are lying vacant and 167 of 175 posts have no incumbents, posing a question: Who's guarding the forests?

It was a Bangalore Mirror report about the state of a burial ground that prompted action by the Public Works Dept



BM spoke about how the population of water birds has dropped by 80 to 90% in the city due to rapid urbanisation

We reported that 714 people were killed in 3,466 road accidents in 2022 with a 193% rise in crashes at KR Puram

HEALTH TIP: Developing interests outside of work can help reduce stress and improve productivity

Protect yourself by using shade, clothing (including a hat, T-shirt and UV protective sunglasses) and a high SPF sunscreen

MIRRORLIGHTS

Lifestyle tips for pre-diabetics

Pre-diabetes is a condition or stage that precedes diabetes, where the body's blood sugar levels are elevated but not yet high enough to be classified as type 2 diabetes. Here are some precautions and tips one can be mindful of to stay healthy as a pre-diabetic:

Move about more: Sitting is the new smoking. A sedentary lifestyle is known to increase the risk of Type 2 diabetes. Regular exercise and workouts approved by a trainer or doctor help manage pre-diabetes by lowering blood glucose levels.

Weight management: If you are diagnosed for pre-diabetes, gradually losing 5-10 per cent of your body weight can significantly improve your chances of delaying or reversing diabetes prevalence.

Keep stress at bay: Stress can make you sick, but it can also make you pre-diabetic, or at least make your condition worse. An imbalance of stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline - known for the fight or flight response - can trigger blood glucose levels to shoot up and remain high.

Watch your plate: Consider the composition of your meals. Is there an adequate balance between protein, carbohydrates, fats and necessary vitamins and minerals? For a healthy portion, pre-diabetics should fill half of their plate with non-starchy vegetables and leafy greens, and the rest with healthy carbohydrates, whole grains and lean protein. Stocking up on fibre will ensure satiety without raising blood sugar. Snack on nuts and fruit, even if they seem to be sugary. One must remember they have natural sugar.

Avoid drinking your sugar: Added sugars must be avoided at all costs to avoid escalation into diabetes. Sweetened beverages can spike blood sugar levels and provide little nutritional diversity.

-Dr Vivek Srivastava (IANSlife)

BEYOND SHUTTING DOORS

Six design tips to minimise noise pollution at home

"A luxuriant choice of carpet flooring can come out as an end-to-end solution that absorbs sounds at varying levels depending on its material selection

A home is viewed as a calm haven - an escape from the urban clamour-in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the modern world. However, the crowded cityscape offers little room for quiet areas for most residences, making noise pollution a present-day problem. Technically sound construction and thoughtful detailing can reduce the nuisance of city noise and restore a home's tranquil environment.

Bring in shades

The openings in a space are the route to noise pollution, which is why window shades matter the most. A thoughtful selection of shades in wood or bamboo can restrict the outdoor noise effectively, given the material properties such as thickness and density. On the other hand, light-hued or sheer linen variants can come out as options for low-lit spaces as they absorb sound restricting echoes and reverberations, without restricting the daylight. Irrespective of the material choices, where kinetic louvres are known to offer partial insulation, while the roll down shutters offer better noise reduction bringing the focus to the role of enclosures in sound insulation.

Soften the floors

Floors that get the maximum footfall in a space become the major source of noise pollution in it. A luxuriant choice of carpet flooring can come out as an end-to-end solution that absorbs sounds at varying levels depending on its material selection- where vinyl floors offer a sound reduction of upto 20dB or those of woven fibre absorb almost all the sound. In more economical designs, these carpets can be incorporated as overlays such as rugs or selectively laid out in high-traffic zones along with surfaces such as hardwood and save it from the noise generated within a space.

Layer the walls

The social high-rise housing structures have made walls play a major role in noise pollution from the immediate surroundings. Wall coverings are introduced to add a layer of insulation to the spatial expanse- acoustic wall panels are the go-to choice for imperforate insulation. They can be as extensive as textured foam surfaces layering the entire wall or be a more appealing addition as a solid fabric panelling posing as a feature element on the wall. Greener options like a living wall or a vertical garden can also be opted for, to take up landscaping as an approach to insulation.

Create a buffer

Plants, by nature, are a natural sound buffer. A thoughtful lineup of these green pockets along the windows or an independent balcony garden can filter the outdoor noise, while a statement planter or an extravagant terrarium on the indoors can uphold the silence by absorbing sound. In parallel, other landscape features such as water fountains and indoor cascades can also create a buffer with water as a sound-absorbing element. Landscaping concepts like zen gardens can also create quiet corners within a home and create an escape from the cacophony.

Go with closed layouts

Noise pollution works with simpler rules-sound production and sound reflection. An enclosed space with solid walls or partitions delimits both of the above, making a space less noisy and more definitive. It is also notable that clustered plans have better performance compared to grid plans since the sound is dispersed in multiple directions in such spaces. The semi-open anti-spaces introduced in the midst can also adapt to the same with added layers such as closed fencing or railing, with wood posts, vinyl boards or glass panels depending on the aesthetic taste of the space.

Plan an energy-efficient home

Energy-efficient systems in homes have taken a more desirable turn with quieter appliances and smarter systems that work on minimal energy consumption. Such integrations to homes have brought down the indoor noise levels by a large margin, making noise pollution not only manageable but a rising call for sustainability, all across.

- Punam Kalra, interior designer (IANSlife)

allo #AskThe'S'EXPERT

1 I am a 25-year-old man and wanted to ask what precautions one should take while sex to avoid infections (oral sex/ normal sex). What tests one should do before the sex to make sure a person is free of any STIs, STDs.
Precautions for penetrative sex include condoms (prevents pregnancy & infections) or other contraceptives (OCP, diaphragm, IUDs etc.- prevent pregnancy only). You can make oral sex safer by using dental dams or condoms. There are different tests for different STIs- most lab & test providers curate "STI panel" tests containing the various relevant tests in one package. If you're confused about the tests, speak to your doctor. Also note, HPV is a common STI which has a preventive vaccine as well.

2 I don't feel any pleasure during intercourse- I just feel pain. What to do?
Please note that pain during sex is undesirable & can cause you to not enjoy the act. There could be many reasons for pain during intercourse like inadequate natural lubrication or other physical/ psychological conditions. Experimenting with foreplay (stimulation through touch, oral sex, etc.) could help with arousal leading to natural lubrication.

11.23%
people believe STIs are transmissible through toilet seats*
This is false.
Sexual Health Ed Survey, Allo Health (2022)*

Ask anonymously or read more allo.health/ask

Mysuru is gearing up to ring in the new

Police to keep close watch at festivities; CCTVs, special squads to weed out miscreants

With spurt in tourists in the heritage city for Christmas holidays, Mysuru is now gearing up for the New Year (NY). This has increased the task for the police as they need to ensure there is no untoward incident.

"We have already installed CCTvs at 59 spots. Additionally, we are setting up 275 CCTvs and the feed will be monitored at the command centre. We request the individuals who have fixed CCTvs at their houses or shops also need to ensure that the cameras are in a working condition. We have directed people to wind up their NY revelry by 1 AM," said B Ramesh, Mysuru city police commissioner.

The police said that they have formed 18 special squads. The main aim of the squads is to keep an eye on the public.

"We often see that people try to stop others to forcefully wish them for New Year or trouble them. Therefore, the squad members will keep an eye on all such activities," said a police officer.

For women's safety, a special women's squad has been deployed. Four pink Garuda vehicles will be patrolling the city on Saturday. Five rapid action teams have been set up to check the drunken driving incidents. These teams will also keep an eye on anyone indulging in drag race or wheelie as well.

Mysuru district SP Seema Latkar, said, "The resorts and hotels where NY parties are being organised should strictly follow government guidelines. We request people to return home after 1 am.

4 grade separators

As the traffic increases on Mysuru's Outer Ring Road, the authorities are now planning to construct grade separators at four key junctions. An inspection was carried out recently to identify the junctions. MUDA Chairman Yahaswi Somashekar, said, "We will prepare a DPR soon and then seek assistance from the government to take up these projects."

According to the officials, during the recent inspection, they visited Basavanahalli near Vijayanagar third and fourth phases which were witnessing heavy traffic congestion. A grade separator is being proposed for this location.

"We have seen magic boxes at a few places in Bengaluru. We are now proposing authorities to construct an underpass using magic box pre-cast technology," said Somashekar.

"We want to convert the blackspots on ORR as accident free zones. Tenders will be invited once the DPR is prepared and we hope that the works may start in the next five to six months," said Mysuru MP Pratap Simha.

– Prakash VL

Wild elephant attacks couple, woman killed

A woman was killed while three others including her husband were injured in a wild elephant attack on Thursday in Chikkabeechanahalli village near Bilikere in Mysuru district of Karnataka.

The deceased was identified as 55-year-old Chikkamma, a resident of Beechanahalli. According to authorities, she was attacked by the elephant while she worked at her farm with her husband Sidde Gowda.

Chikkamma died on the spot while Sidde Gowda managed to escape with minor injuries.

The elephant also attacked Ranju with its trunk and trampled another person Ravi. Both were working at their farm. The injured had been shifted to a private hospital in Mysuru. The police personnel from Bilikere police station and Range Forest Officer Nandakumar and staff of the forest department have rushed to the spot and trying to shoo away the elephant to the forest.

Chamundeshwari constituency MLA, G.T. Deve Gowda, paid a visit to the injured persons in the private hospital in Mysuru and also met the family members of the deceased woman. –IANS

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K.Krishna S/o Kotta Polayya, R/o Jhatipadar, Ganjam, Odisha - 761009 have changed my Name from K. Krishna to Kotta Krishna.

I, MAYURI SANJAY KURHADE, W/o Surendranath Harishchandra Tikekar, R/o I-004, Bren Paddigton, Sy no.22/1C and 22,2,A K, No. 925 22,2A Kaikondahalli Bengaluru - 560035, Karnataka have changed my name as MAYURI SURENDRANATH TIKEKAR vide affidavit dated 27.12.2022 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I Rammohan Kuthiathoor Sreerangan S/O, Sreerangan Kuthethoor Mohan Rao R/o No 1831,7th Cross,j P Nagar,2nd Phase,bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Rammohan Kuthethoor Sreerangan for all purposes.

I, Amthu Habeeb residing at 855, Shankar matt road, KR Puram Hassan - 573201, Karnataka have changed my name to Amthul Habeed vide affidavit dated 29.12.2022 sworn before notary V Anjanappa Bangalore

I, Srinivas Gowda, R/o. #7/1, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Attiguppe, Vijayanagar, Blr-40, have changed my minor son's name Dhanveer Srinivas Gowda to Sharvin Srinivas Gowda for all purposes.

I,NARASIMHULU Muppalla S/o Subbaraju R/o 10,3rd Main,Vinayakanagar, Bagalur Cross,Yelahanka,B'luru-560063 have changed my name to Narasimhalu Muppalla affidavit Dt.30/12/2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Avdhoot Nitin Inchekar S/O, Nitin Raghunathrao Inchekar R/o A-304, Shreeji Sankul, Wadala Pathardi Road, Indira Nagar, Nashik - 422009 have changed my name to Avadhoot Nitin Inchekar for all purposes.

I, Shumana W/o Abdul Lateef Shukur R/o No. 07, 3rd cross, Lalbagh fort road, Doddama valli, Bangalore-560004 have change my name to Shumana Taj affidavit dated 22.12.2022 notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I Arunjayaveera S/o S.Jayaveeraraj R/o 101,1st Floor Chandar Manor Apt, No 15.cornwell Road Langford Gardens Richmond Town B'lore-560025 ,want to add surname in the passport No-Z5014601 as given name Arun and surname as Jayaveera.

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Lata Mangeshkar, KK, Queen Elizabeth II and Shane Warne bid the world adieu in 2022

Legends we bade farewell to in 2022

As the world mourns legendary footballer Pele, we look at all the stars that became eternal this year

In Bengaluru, football fans pay tribute to soccer legend Pele, who passed away on Thursday in Brazil

The dark clouds of Covid may have dissipated a bit in 2022 with growing vaccine coverage stemming the mass fatalities, but, the continuing pandemic, along with other diseases and age, continued to take its toll on several stellar figures from various spheres spanning politics to arts to sports. In India, the passing away, on February 6, of Lata Mangeshkar (92), the voice of generations of Hindi film heroines from Madhubala to Madhuri Dixit and many more, ended a long standing melodious career, while the death of United Kingdom's Queen Elizabeth II (96) - for many generations of Britons, the only monarch they knew - on September 8 after a record over 70-year-long reign ended the second Elizabethan era.

Then, the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (67) on July 8 came as a shock, coming in a nation where political violence is largely absent. Last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev (91), feted in the West for ending the Cold War (temporarily, as it emerged) but not particularly liked at home for presiding over the Soviet Union's dissolution, also passed away on August 30.

Other leading political luminaries who passed away in 2022 were Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh (95), on January 22, Madeleine Albright (84), the first woman US Secretary of State, on March 23, the UAE's second President and Abu Dhabi ruler Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (73), on May 13, Angolan freedom fighter and long-time President, Jose Eduardo dos Santos (79), on July 8, Chinese leader Jiang Zemin (96), who presided over China's economic boom, and veteran Indian socialist leader, three-time Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and former Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav (82), on October 10.

The world also lost a range of feted actors and directors this year, beginning with Bahamian-American actor and ambassador Sidney Poitier. The first Black to win the Oscar for Best Actor (for "Lilies of the Field", 1963) and showing his prowess with inter-race dramas "To Sir, with Love", "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner", and "In the Heat of the Night" (all 1967), Poitier passed away at the age of 94 on January 6.

Indian cinema will miss Marathi and Bollywood actor Ramesh Deo (96), who passed away on February 2, and actor Salim Ghouse (70) of the intense gaze and mesmerising voice on April 28.

French film director Jean-Jacques Beineix (75), who spearheaded the 'cinema du look' movement, and the acclaimed 'New Wave' director Jean-Luc Godard (91), also walked off stage on January 13 and September 13.

The world of music lost Michael Lee Aday aka Meat Loaf (74) on January 20, Greek composer Vangelis (79), who brought electronic music into the mainstream with his evocative score for Oscar-winning sports drama "Chariots of Fire" (1981), on May 17, Australian band "The Seekers" vocalist Judith Durham (79), most famous for her "The Carnival is Over", on August 5, and pop singer Dame Olivia Newton-John (73), known for her musicals like "Grease" (197) with the young John Travolta, on August 8.

Indians bid adieu to pianist Neil Nongkynrih (51), the founder of Shillong Chamber Choir, on January 5, music composer Bappi Lahiri (69), on February 15, santoor maestro Pandit Shivkumar Sharma (84) on May 10, playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath or KK (53) on May 31, and ghazal maestro Bhupinder Singh (82) on July 18.

In the world of books, author Harry Patterson aka 'Jack Higgins' (92), best known for "The Eagle Has Landed" and other thrillers set in World War II and later, passed away on April 9, Spanish author Javier Marias (70), who breathed his last on September 11, and English author Dame Hilary Mantel (70), known for bringing the age of King Henry VIII alive in books like "Wolf Hall", who died on September 22.

In the field of sports, the most unexpected death was that of Australian spin wizard Shane Warne, aged 52, on March 4. Coincidentally, the same day, wicket-keeper Rodney Marsh (74), part of the celebrated Australian team of the 1970s along with the Chapell brothers, and pacers Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thompson, also passed away the same day.

In another shock, former Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds (46) died in a car crash on May 14.

Another high-profile passing was of Brazilian legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento 'Pele' (82), whose fame transcended football, on December 29.

In India, several veteran hockey players passed away this year - Jaswant Singh (90), member of the silver-winning team at the 1960 Rome Olympics, on January 14, Charanjit Singh (90), who led the team to gold medal at 1964 Tokyo Olympics, on January 27, and Varinder Singh (75), member of the bronze-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics, on June 28.

IANS

'Greatest of all time': Pele as described by his peers

Pele has been praised over the decades by everyone from world leaders to artists. Here are superlatives from over the years about Pele, who died Thursday in Brazil at age 82:

"To watch him play was to watch the delight of a child combined with the extraordinary grace of a man in full." **— Nelson Mandela.**

"I told myself before the game, he's made of skin and bones just like everyone else — but I was wrong." **— Italy's Tarcisio Burgnich,** after playing against Pele in the 1970 World Cup Final.

"Pelé was one of the few who contradicted my theory: Instead of 15 minutes of fame, he will have 15 centuries." **— Andy Warhol.**

"I sometimes feel as though football was invented for this magical player." **— Sir Bobby Charlton,** retired England great who won 1966 World Cup and Ballon d'Or in same year.

"Pelé was the only footballer who surpassed the boundaries of logic." **— Johan Cruyff,** the late Dutch star and standout manager who won the Ballon d'Or three times.

"He is the most complete player I ever saw." **— Retired German great Franz Beckenbauer.**

"If you take the qualities of Cristiano Ronaldo and (Lionel) Messi, put them together, then you'd have a player to compare to Pelé!" **— Retired Brazil forward Tostao.**

"The best player ever? Pelé. (Lionel) Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are both great players with specific qualities, but Pelé was better." **— Alfredo Di Stefano,** the late Argentine star for Real Madrid.

"His great secret was improvisation. Those things he did were in one moment. He had an extraordinary perception of the game." **— Brazil defender Carlos Alberto Torres**

"This debate about the player of the century is absurd. There's only one possible answer: Pelé. He's the greatest player of all time, and by some distance, I might add." **— Retired Brazil star Zico**

"The greatest player in history was Di Stefano. I refuse to classify Pelé as a player. He was above that." **— Hungary star Ferenc Puskas**

"We went up together to head a ball. I was taller, had a better impulse. When I came back down, I looked up in astonishment. Pelé was still there, in the air, heading that ball. It was like he could stay suspended for as long as he wanted to." **— Italy defender Giacinto Facchetti**

"When I saw Pelé play, it made me feel I should hang up my boots." **— Just Fontaine,** the Morocco-born French star

"The difficulty, the extraordinary, is not to score 1,000 goals like Pelé — it's to score one goal like Pelé." **— Carlos Drummond de Andrade,** Brazilian poet.

"Pelé is the greatest player in football history, and there will only be one Pelé in the world." — **Cristiano Ronaldo,** Portugal star forward

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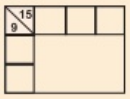
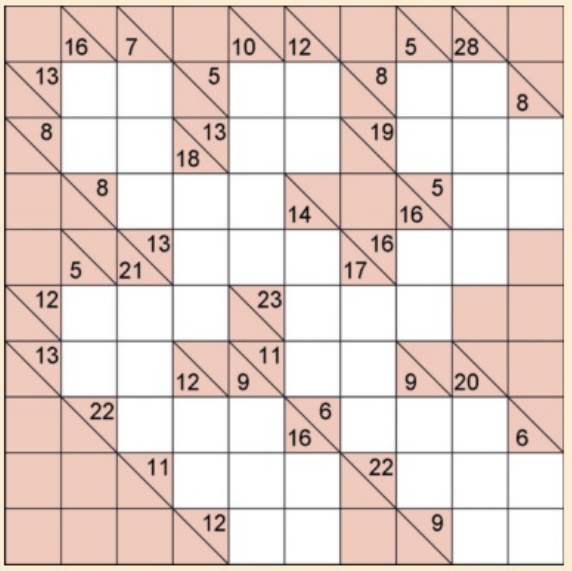
Kakuro

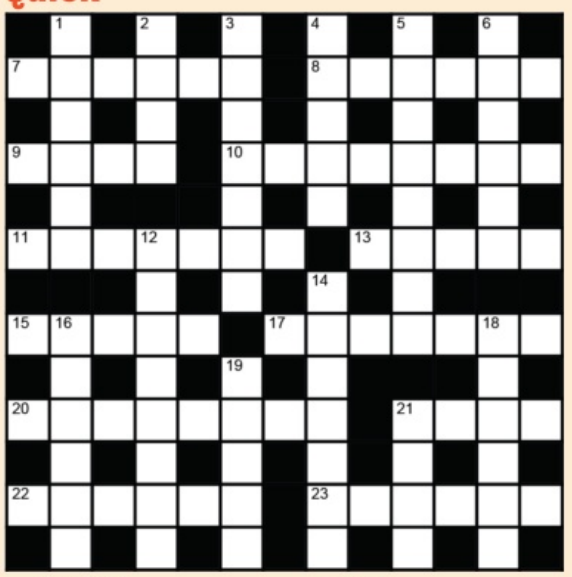
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Came to blows (6)
8 Plunderer or pillager? (6)
9 Creole vegetable (4)
10 Think too highly of? (8)
11 Let or allowed to fall (7)
13 Speedy (5)
15 Swallows greedily (5)
17 Wart (7)
20 Our erstwhile PHL team (2-6)
21 An oil reservoir (4)
22 Assumed name (6)
23 Based on 9s (6)

DOWN

1 Employee (6)
2 City in UP (4)
3 Golf shots (7)
4 Smooth and glossy (5)
5 Debtor (8)
6 Tom Clancy 's The __ __ honour (4,2)
12 Supply route (4-4)
14 Decreases (7)
16 Societies or associations (6)
18 Photographic apparatus (6)
19 Appears to be? (5)
21 Gone under (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS I

ZR UEN JCOP VE MPPA BPHZISZIK UENBLPQR ER C VJZIK, APBJCAL ZV ZLI'V LE.

Linemaro

Nothing can keep me from you, not even a moat filled with lava

Mindchow

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are

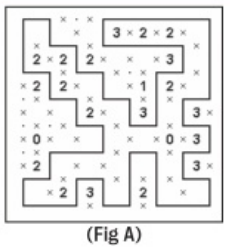
Joke of the day

If you lend someone money and you never see that person again, it was probably worth it

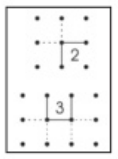
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



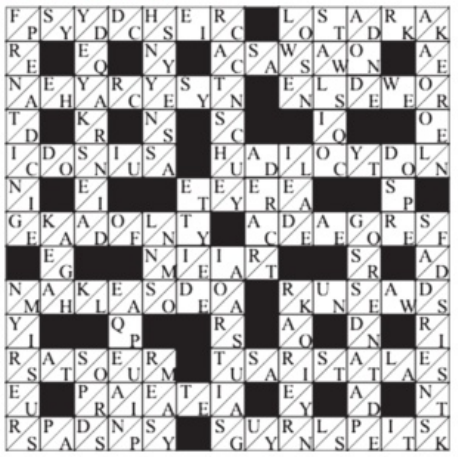
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

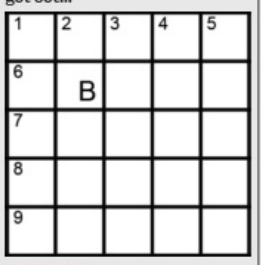
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

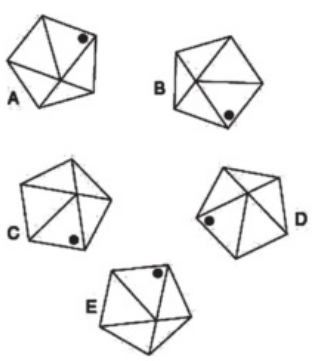
1 Roils; 6 Bap ma; 7 Tease; 8 A gait; 9 Hooks

DOWN

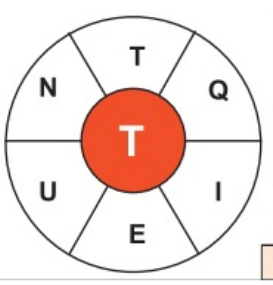
1 Salts; 2 He Boa; 3 At Rio; 4 Amigo; 5 Spake

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

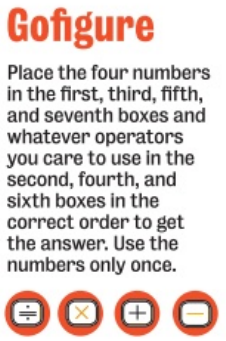
SudokuChallenge

	1							
	2		8		4			
4						7	8	5
		1	6		8			9
	5		1	2	9		3	
7			4		3	1		
9	4	5						2
			7		6		1	
							9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

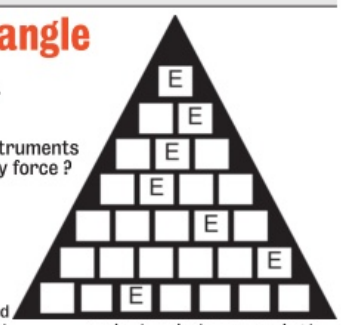
Differences: 1. Music note is moved. **2.** Leg is moved. **3.** Clothespin is missing. **4.** Sheet is longer. **5.** Window is wider. **6.** Arm is not showing.

Riddler

What is the highest product that can be generated by multiplying two numbers while only using each digit once (1 through 9)? For example, 12345678 * 9 = 111,111,102

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 South East, abbr.
3 Solidified
4 Tennis replays
5 Troubadours' instruments
6 Swindle, obtain by force ?
7 Detectives



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

ONCE YOU GET THIS STUFF STARTED IT COMES OUT FAST!
10-14
Poof!
BEATS ME HOW THEY GET ALL THIS COTTON INSIDE ONE LITTLE PILL BOTTLE!

Bizarrotrip

If I knew I'd end up here today, I would've worn a different Halloween costume.
Wayno & Piraro
10-25-22
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Diamond Lil

WHAT ARE YOU GOING AS FOR HALLOWEEN?
I'LL BE GOING AS MISS INDECISIVE
WHAT'LL YOU BE WEARING?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'LL BE TORN
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Hart of the city

I NEED TO RETURN THIS MIXER, BUT I CAN'T FIND THE RECEIPT.
YOU GOTTA GET MORE ORGANIZED, ADDY. I SAVE EVERY RECEIPT I GET.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED IT.
ANONYMOUS SOURCE IDENTIFIED. ANOTHER CASE CLOSED.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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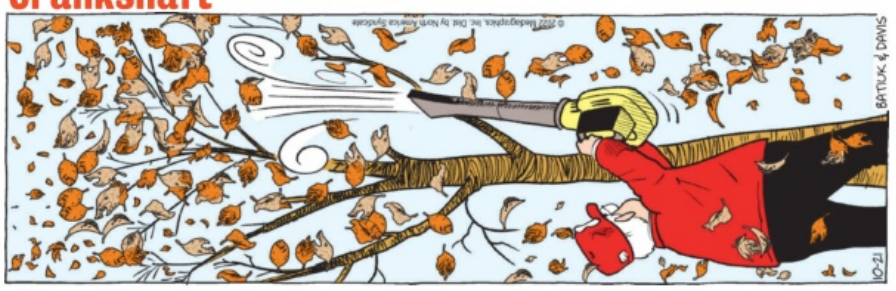
Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are likely to meet some old friends or be busy with social get-togethers. You may be more excited today. New innovations may be there in terms of business. You may see some unexpected material gains. Kids may bring good news in terms of studies. Lovebirds may enjoy quality moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Small investments may convert to big profits. Your working efficiency may be increased now. You are likely to get success with low effort. You may hear good news in legal matters. You may have full control over your opponents and rivals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon. Minimal effort may give you success. You are likely to have good profits from past investments. You will get rewards for your hard work on the professional and domestic front. Your prestige may be increased now. You may start new innovations in business. Disputes with your spouse may be resolved now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel better. Situations may be under control. Your network may help you on the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and your love life. You may bring some artefacts or creative items for your family. You may also plan watching movies or going out with friends or family.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may get tired due to overworking. It can make you lazy and careless, so you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning for adventure tours, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert to dead stock. Students are advised to work hard.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today your creativity may be high. You may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some items to decorate your home or office, which may increase your social status. There is likely to be some harmony with your spouse. It creates harmony in your domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may settle down.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you will be glad. you will be able to maintain a balance between your earnings and expenditure, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit your elders or a spiritual place.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel dull due to sleeplessness. You may be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some spiritual place. In the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel, which may reflect into your way of working. But with the help of concentration, you may come back to your speed. You are likely to pay extra attention to your kid's health. You will be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents.

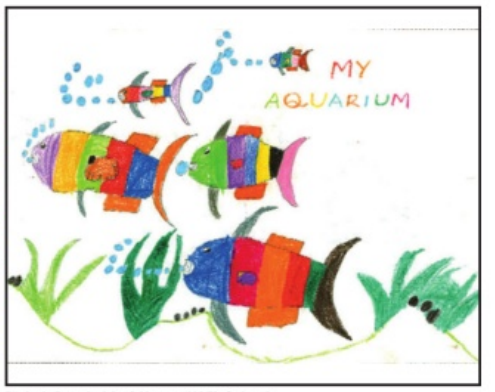
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be happy at work. You are likely to take some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You may plan for a short trip. Your subordinates are likely to be cooperative. You may expect some good news in terms of your sibling's success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today your communication skills will help you in terms of the professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you to speed up your projects. Lovebirds may be likely to exchange their views with each other, which can create some foundation in their relationship.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. New Partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy levels may be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you.

KIDZONE

Nazia, 10 Years, B Mona High School



Rishab Prashobh, 6 Years, NAFL School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1434-964=470=CDLXX.
(V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500, M=1000)

BULL'S EYE
quiet, QUINTET, quit, quite, tent, thne, tint, tune, unit, untie, untie

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
G: the rest are the same figure rotated.

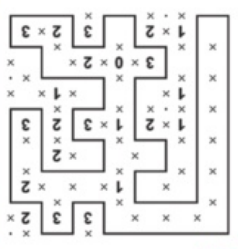
SUDOKU

8	1	9	5	6	7	2	4	3
5	2	7	8	3	4	9	6	1
4	6	3	9	1	2	7	8	5
2	3	1	6	7	8	4	5	9
7	9	8	4	5	3	1	2	6
6	5	4	1	2	9	8	3	7
9	4	5	3	8	1	6	7	2
3	8	2	7	9	6	5	1	4
1	7	6	2	4	5	3	9	8

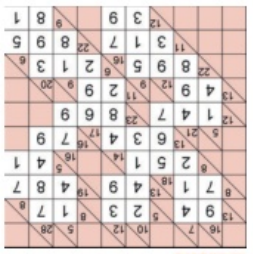
ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, SE, Set, Lets, Lutes, Hustle, Sleuths.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 3 − 3 − 1 = 1
Medium
9 + 6 + 4 + 5 = 24
Hard
4 − 4 + 4 + 9 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



FAST FIVE

S	H	O	O	K
L	O	R	I	S
A	B	A	M	P
S	E	T	A	E
T	A	I	G	A

QUOTE UNCODE
If you have to keep reminding yourself of a thing, perhaps it isn't so.

RIDDLER
9642 * 87531 = 843,973,902

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Take it easy

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, on Thursday, dropped a picture of herself welcoming 2023 on a good and positive note.

Taking to Instagram, Samantha treated fans with yet another picture and motivational message. In the selfie, the 'Oo Antava' star could be seen in a black printed night suit and no-makeup look.

Along with a picture, she penned down a sweet note, "Function forward...Control what we can!! Guess it's time for newer and easier resolutions.. ones that are kinder and gentler on ourselves. God bless. Happy 2023!!"

As soon as the actor uploaded the post, her fans and industry friends chimed in comment section. Filmmaker Nandini Reddy dropped a comment, "It's going to be a happy 2023."

One of the fans wrote, "Hope you have a healthy, happy and great year in 2023."

Actor Gayatri Bhargavi wrote, "You will Raise & Shine in 2023 too... Prayers." **-ETimes**

Mind the age gap!

Janhvi remembers how her superstar mum Sridevi was paired with older actors when she was just a teenager

Janhvi Kapoor recently stated that the actors she wants to work with are not in her age bracket. The actress also recalled her late mother Sridevi being paired with older actors in films when she was a teenager.

In an interview with a news portal, Janhvi revealed that Sridevi was 13 when she was a heroine to the fathers, and she was 21 when she was a heroine to the sons. Although the actress feels it was a wrong practice, she also added that it's how it was back then.

Talking about getting paired opposite an older male actor, Janhvi said that if it happens in life, and if it's consensual, then art imitates life and life imitates art. There are so many talented actors that she would love to work with. However, they aren't in her age bracket, Janhvi told Indian Express.

Janhvi made her big Bollywood debut with 'Dhadak' co-starring Ishaan Khatter and since then there has been no looking back for the young diva. She has been proving her mettle in acting with her choices of films and performances ever since.

The actress was last seen in 'Mili'. She will next be seen in Nitesh Tiwari's 'Bawaal' with Varun Dhawan. Janhvi also has 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' with Rajkummar Rao in her kitty. **-ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Son is shining

Dr H Shivappa, a former IAS officer who hails from Sorab and resides in Bengaluru, who took voluntary retirement, is debuting as a producer in Sandalwood by bankrolling the movie Cocktail. His son plays the lead in the film.

"My son Veeren Keshav has all the qualities to become a hero, but no producer or director encouraged him to play the lead. He got an opportunity to play small roles in the movies Yuvaratna and Naragunda Bandaya. My son is trained in acting at Anupam Kher's Acting School in Mumbai but failed to get opportunities to act. So, I decided to bankroll a movie for him," said Dr Shivappa.

He claimed that he did not compromise with the quality of the content. "The audiences prefer content-oriented movies. I discussed with director Sriram Babu about the script. We gave importance to the story," he said.

Cocktail was shot in and around Bengaluru.

Much appreciated

The cast and crew of Kannada movie Sri Balaji Photo Studio are overjoyed at appreciation from Gandhadagudi director and actor Amoghavarsha. Speaking after releasing the trailer and a song of Sri Balaji Photo Studio at Chamundeshwari Studios on Tuesday, Amoghavarsha described the movie as a unique one.

"I want more directors and producers to make movies with different scripts. The audiences are encouraging movies with good content. This movie is about the lifestyle, struggles and problems of a photographer. The title of the movie is also catchy. The quality of its trailer is an indication that audiences will like to watch this movie," said Amoghavarsha.

Actor Shishir described the movie as the result of hard work and dedication of good people. "I want to appreciate the cast and crew of this movie," said Shishir.

Producer Venkateswara Rao Ballari recalled how many of his friends and well-wishers discouraged him when he told about his plan to bankroll this film. "I am confident they will appreciate me now," he said.

City of dreams, for the multiplex audience

MADE IN BENGALURU (KANNADA)

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Pradeep Sastry & Team
- **ACTORS** Anant Nag, Sai Kumar, Prakash Belawadi, Madhusudhan Govind, Sudha Belwadi, Manjunath Hegde, Puneet Manja, Vamshidhar, Himanshi Varma, Vineet Kumar, Ramesh Bhat, Archana Kottige, and Shankar Murthy
- **Duration** 169 minutes

Made In Bengaluru revolves around the lives of three youngsters – Suhas (Madhusudan Govind), Rahul (Puneet Manja), and Nyaan (Vamshidhar) – who choose to set up a startup rather than work at corporate offices. The movie starts off with Rahul reluctantly accompanying his parents to his betrothal with Rachana (Archana Kottige), who wants to go abroad at any cost. The more Rahul tries to cancel the betrothal by telling lies about his health (AIDS) and his sexual orientation, the more Rachana tries to ensure her marriage with him. However, she cancels her marriage with Rahul when the latter told her that he has resigned from his job. At this juncture, the director introduces us to Suhas, who has many ideas about a startup and Nyan, a Malayali, who wants to join hands with Suhas and Rahul.

Meanwhile, Suhas approaches Prahlad Hiranandani (Anant Nag), an investor, seeking funds for his startup. Hiranandani wants to make an investment in cash but Suhas insists on a cheque or a demand draft. With no other option, Suhas approaches Reddy (Sai Kumar), a financier, for a loan. Reddy agrees to give him Rs 25 lakh but wants the latter to return double the amount (Rs 50 lakh) after a year. Suhas and his friends start the startup to develop an app to connect farmers with consumers. They decide to appoint a woman employee to ensure 'discipline' among themselves. Nidhi D'Souza (Himanshi Varma) joins the team. What happens to the startup is the climax that has the potential to make the audiences, especially youngsters, connect with the lead character.

Among the three lead actors, Madhusudan has excelled as a young entrepreneur with a lot of dreams. His performance in scenes where he struggles to speak English and interact with venture capitalists was commendable. Puneet is very good as a reluctant bridegroom. Vamshidhar, with his Kannada dialogues laced in a Malayali accent, tickles the audiences' funny bones.

Anant Nag has provided good support. Sai Kumar, as usual, ham it up in most of the scenes. Himanshi looks pretty and Sudha Belawadi, Manjunath Hegde as concerned parents and Prakash Belawadi as an angry uncle have provided good support.

Pradeep Sastry and team have succeeded in showcasing Bengaluru as the city that offers a lot of opportunities for those who want to become somebody in society.

The only drawback of this movie is its duration. Had the director avoided a few scenes, especially those of Sudha Belawadi and Manjunath Hegde and the scene where Madhusudhan agrees to act in a music video, the movie would have been better for audiences who value time.

The movie is aimed at multiplex audiences. So, watch it if that is your liking.

-Y Maheswara Reddy